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# *Our* **TOWNSALEM**



**Volume 18 – Issue 1**

**March 2011**

**Putting Route 11 Back on the Map ... pg. 5**

**Fighting for Finley ... pg. 6**

**Of Owls, Old Trees, and People ... pg. 9**

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## SALEM TOWN INFORMATION [www.salemct.gov](http://www.salemct.gov)

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Phone: (860) 859-3873

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Town Clerk, Assessor & Tax Collector  
Mon.-Wed. 8 AM to 5 PM  
Thurs. 8 AM to 6 PM, Fri. Closed for routine business  
(*elected officials available for urgent matters*).

### Salem Free Public Library

264 Hartford Rd. Phone/FAX (860) 859-1130  
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Fri. 10 AM to 6 PM, Sat. 10 AM to 4 PM

### Salem School District

200 Hartford Road  
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FAX: (860) 859-2130  
[www.salemschools.org](http://www.salemschools.org)  
Salem School - (860) 859-0267  
Special Education Office - (860) 859-3988

### Salem Police Department

270 Hartford Rd. (860) 859-3873 Ext. 200 or 210

**EMERGENCY 911**

### Salem Transfer Station

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### Animal Control Officer

*Van Miller* (860) 319-1306

### State Senator 20th District

*Andrea Stillman* (860) 443-8568

### State Representative 37th District

*Ed Jutila* (860) 739-7730  
For additional information regarding U.S. Senators  
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## OUR TOWN – SALEM 2011

All articles submitted for publication must be accompanied by the writer's name, address, and phone number so that the submission can be verified. The chairperson and her/his designee must sign articles submitted by town committees.

*Our Town – Salem* reserves the right to edit all articles for grammar, clarity, brevity, and taste. All articles will be checked for factual content, and articles containing unattributable statements will not be accepted. *Our Town – Salem* is published quarterly by volunteer residents of the town of Salem. Your participation is welcomed!

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On the cover: photo by David Bingham.

# *News and Notes from . . .* **OUR TOWN**

*Read about what's new in Salem and learn how to become more involved in shaping the town's future*

## *From the Office of the First Selectman*

Dear Fellow Townspeople,

I hope you and your families are well and looking forward to spring after enduring our unusually difficult winter.

Let's review what has been going on in our town:



### **Unsung Heroes Award Dinner**

It was an honor and pleasure to attend the Unsung Heroes Award Dinner at the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company on January 30th. The event recognized ten individuals in our town for "Extraordinary Volunteer Service to the Citizens of Salem." The award recipients included Robert Appleby, Arthur Christian, Salvatore Crisanti, Carole Eckart, Gloria Fogarty, James Fogarty, Al Giansante, James Krodell, Susan Spang and Helen Woronik (see photo on page 4).

Congratulations to all award recipients. You are an inspiration to our townspeople.

### **Financial Highlights—Annual Audit**

Due to firm enforcement of our purchasing policy, strong negotiations with our vendors, as well as a concerted effort of fiscal responsibility by all departments, the General Government was able to return \$225,568 to the town's General fund. The Board of Education was also able to return \$56,584 to the General fund.

### **Pavilion Update**

The Pavilion Committee has presented its plan for the Community Pavilion on the Route 82 town-owned property (better known as the Gadbois property). The committee has done a fine job specifying a large three season pavilion that will be built with the \$150,000 grant we will receive. Projected construction will begin this summer, with completion by autumn. Stay tuned.

### **Regional Probate**

The state mandated Regional Probate Court is up and running. The court is located at 118 Pennsylvania Avenue in East Lyme and serves the towns of East Lyme, Montville, Old Lyme and Salem. Judge Jeffrey McNamara is the regional judge who

will serve the four towns. He can be reached at 860-739-6052. Judge McNamara will come to Salem to meet residents who have difficulty getting to the new East Lyme location. We will have a room available at Town Hall for times when residents wish to meet with Judge McNamara.

### **Sidewalk to Connect School and Library**

The paperwork and engineering design has been submitted to the state Department of Transportation. The grant money has been secured for this important safety upgrade. I am thankful to the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments for their endorsement of this safe passage between these two important municipal buildings. The sidewalk will also serve as an evacuation route for the school.

### **Thank You**

A big thank you to our Public Works crew and our Emergency Responders for all the weather-related work they performed over the last several months to keep us safe.

I also want to thank all of our dedicated volunteers who give so much of their time and talents to make Salem a better place in which to live.

Enjoy the spring season. You deserve it. I hope to see you around town at one of our many activities. I am honored to be your First Selectman.

*Respectfully,*

*Kevin Lyden*





## Salem's Unsung Heroes Recognized

By Leeland Cole-Chu



The 2010 Salem Unsung Heroes Award winners: *From left, Helen Woronik, Sal Crisanti, Jim Krodel, Sue Spang, Bob Appleby, Gloria Fogarty, Jim Fogarty, Arthur Christian. Kneeling: Alfonso Giansanti. Not in photo: Carole Eckart.*

The 2010 Salem Unsung Heroes banquet was held on January 30 at the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire company fire house. In addition to the honorees pictured above, those present were Sen. Richard Blumenthal, State Treasurer Denise Nappier, Rep. Joe Courtney's State Director Jennie Contois, State Sen. Andrea Stillman, State Rep. Edwin Jutila, First Selectman Kevin Lyden, and nearly two hundred others. The program, in which each honoree was introduced and presented with numerous acknowledgments, was a great celebration of volunteerism in Salem. The names of all 79 Salem Unsung Heroes Awards honorees are on a plaque prominently on display at the Town Offices.

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## Legislation Introduced to Strengthen State's Anti-Bullying Stance

By Sen. Andrea L. Stillman, 20th District



Schoolyard bullying in 2011 has moved far beyond the halls, cafeteria and playgrounds of our public schools to include a host of digital opportunities for would-be bullies to intimidate, threaten, and harass their victims. Access to cell phones, e-mail, social media sites, and text messaging erases those once-upon-a-time boundaries.

With that in mind I've joined Senate Majority Leader Martin Looney to introduce legislation this year to substantially strengthen and expand the state's existing school bullying laws. Our comprehensive bill is meant to not only address specific types of bullying but help foster safe school climates in an effort to mitigate the prevalence of bullying.

The state law we enacted in 2008 to address the issue is in some ways already obsolete. That law required the state Department of Education (SDE) to prepare a report on the matter based upon a survey of local school district officials – among its findings was a widespread dearth of adequate training for educators and staff.

Our proposed bill enlists SDE in a wholesale, statewide program to train all school personnel with regard to 'preventing, identifying, and responding to' bullying. Along these lines we seek to provide or recommend anti-bullying curricula and a standardized approach to the matter for all school districts.

The bill would require school districts to designate anti-bullying coordinators who in turn would identify anti-bullying specialists in each school. This becomes the key to our strategy: building a capable 'human infrastructure' in each district to not only manage the problem when it occurs, but create a supportive, respectful environment in each school so bullying shrinks from the landscape.

We also want to provide anti-bullying information to parents, including a description of current, applicable state law and training materials for prevention, identification, and response.

I'm particularly concerned about the incidence of cyber-bullying in Connecticut, defined as one child targeting another by using interactive technologies. Experts on the matter describe the long-lasting and far-reaching impact of these attacks: the impact is felt anywhere they can use their cell phones and every time they log onto the Internet.

Cyber-bullying can readily be anonymous, which I think makes it even more dangerous. Threats without an identifiable source meant to frighten or intimidate someone would seem particularly chilling. I was shocked to learn about bashing Web sites, at which photos can be posted, labels can be attached, and visitors can 'gang up' on a victim to accent and amplify an effort to discredit or disgrace him or her.



Cyber-bullying can take other serious forms: hacking into the victim's computer, posing as the victim to set him or her up for further abuse, even running up excessive charges for text messages and other expensive features and then leaving the victim with the bill.

Local school districts are challenged to identify the scope of their jurisdiction with regard to cyber-bullying so it has become the state's responsibility to provide guidance, training, and muscle as necessary to help local officials help the students and families impacted in this regard. Our proposed bill seeks to address this runaway problem, with measures to combat an epidemic said to be limited only by the imagination and bandwidth of the bullies themselves.

*Andrea Stillman represents the 20th Senatorial District, which includes New London, Waterford, East Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Salem and Montville.*

### Putting Route 11 Back on the Map

*By State Rep. Ed Jutla, 37th District*



The current legislative session is destined to go down as one of the most challenging ever. We are faced with the task of balancing the next biennial budget with its built-in \$3.5 billion deficit. To do this, we must weed out waste and inefficiency, as well as reduce or eliminate funding for some worthy, but unaffordable, programs, while limiting damage to those programs that truly make a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable among us.

There is little doubt that cuts alone will not do it. Governor Malloy made that clear repeatedly during the fall campaign, and has continued with that message as governor. We must proceed with caution, however, so we do not curtail the fragile economic recovery currently in process.

At the same time, we cannot ignore the need to maintain and update our infrastructure. We must make the kind of capital investments that will promote economic recovery and job growth in our state. To that end, I have proposed two bills this year aimed at advancing our transportation infrastructure in southeastern Connecticut.

The first would authorize the Department of Transportation to impose a toll to cover a portion of the cost of the state's 20% share of any new highway or extension of an existing highway. It should be obvious that my motivation for this is the completion of Route 11.

It would be a gross understatement to say that completing this project has been frustrating. With a strong leader now in the governor's office who frequently stresses his desire to see Route 11 completed, and a new chairman of the General Assembly's Transportation Committee from our region (Sen-

tor Andrew Maynard of Stonington), the stars may finally be lining up for this much delayed project. I am convinced, however, that without a reliable, dedicated funding source for at least a portion of the cost, having friends and supporters in high places will not get the project moving again.

The second bill would require the DOT to study the feasibility of establishing a passenger train station in Niantic and report back to the Transportation Committee early next year. With Shore Line East commuter rail now extending as far east as New London, there is a need for another station between New London and Old Saybrook. This would make commuter rail more convenient and attract more riders from our region.

It is still early in the current legislative session which ends in June. As always, I encourage your phone calls, e-mails and letters to express your views on these or any other issues of importance to you.

*Ed Jutla represents the 37th Assembly District, which includes Salem and East Lyme.*



### *A Moment in Salem History*

"From here a glimpse is also had of Gardner's Lake, a beautiful sheet of water, which came to notice last winter, when a resident on its shores essayed to move his house on skids across its frozen surface. The results were disastrous to ice and house."

*From the New York Times, December 22, 1895.*

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*Local Voices are the . . .*

# TALK OF THE TOWN

*Residents share their stories in columns related to various aspects of Salem life*

## *Fighting for Finley*

*By Elizabeth C. Regan*

Finley Pletcher is four years old. She has wispy blond curls that cap a tall, thin frame. She explores her world from different levels and different angles, sometimes running at full height, sometimes dropping to hands and knees to sneak around a corner and peer up at what's going on in another room. Her glasses—dark blue frames with tinted lenses—are a defining feature against her pale complexion. But the glasses are not corrective. They are meant to protect her eyes from light, not to improve her vision. There is currently no treatment to halt or reverse the retinal degeneration that has already stolen 90% of her sight. Finley is going blind.

Finley was diagnosed with Leber's congenital amaurosis (LCA) in 2009. LCA is a rare genetic disorder occurring in approximately 3,000 people in the United States. Nine months after that clinical diagnosis, genetic tests were able to pinpoint the mutation that was causing Finley's progressive loss of vision. The gene affected was Retinal Dehydrogenase 12, or RDH12. Her parents, Mathew and Jennifer Pletcher, were in turn shocked, frightened, and hopeful as events slowly unfolded to give them a clearer picture of Finley's condition, its cause, and what could be done to help her.

Jennifer cites subtle clues as she looks back on the first signs that something might be wrong with Finley's vision. "We started to notice she was acting quirky about 15 months," she says.

"Basically when she started walking," Mat says.

"Into everything," Jennifer finishes. The comfortable back-and-forth between the couple is indicative of their close relationship and the sense of support that colors their own interactions and draws their family into a protective fold. Jennifer and Mat have three children: Arlington, age eight; Finley; and Cainan, now four, who was adopted from China as a 14 month old.

Jennifer details other traits in Finley that triggered small alarms: the way she would turn her head to look at objects instead of eyeing them straight-on and how she'd fail to spot her parents right away if she was standing at the top of the stairs and they were at the bottom. But she was young, unable to read and not prone to watching the television yet, so the more obvious cues were not yet present.

When the toddler phase commenced, it was the clumsiness Mat and Jennifer attuned to

more than anything. "She was always falling," Jennifer says. They brought their concerns to Finley's pediatrician, but the doctor was not concerned. "Finley was in the 90th percentile for height, so there was always an explanation for everything that was going on with her," Jennifer says.

"A rationalization," Mat clarifies.

"Yes," Jennifer says. "They always had a reason. And it made sense."

The couple's decision to bypass the rationalizations in favor of a more specialized opinion was made when Finley was 2 years old, about a year after their move to Connecticut from Florida. A visit to a local optometrist led to an appointment with a pediatric ophthalmologist and finally to a retinal specialist in Hartford.

It was the retinal specialist who delivered the devastating news. "He said 'I don't know what it is, but I can tell you that she's going to go blind,'" Jennifer recounts. Then, like doctors do, he asked if she had any questions. Jennifer describes her astonished disbelief with characteristic levity: "I was like, 'Buddy, I have nothing to ask because I don't even know where to start.'"

But she had to start somewhere. Jennifer's first step was to call to her husband, who was in California on business. The news hit hard. Mat excused himself from the rest of the day's work.

"It was very hard to comprehend what this would mean," Mat says. "You have all your hopes and dreams tied up in your children as it is, and you always want to try to



have the perfect life for them.”

The Pletchers were then referred to Dr. Anne Fulton at Children’s Hospital Boston. Dr. Fulton, the country’s leading physician for LCA cases in children under the age of six, confirmed that Finley’s condition fell under her bailiwick. The results of extensive genetic testing that came back nine months later narrowed down the cause to the RDH12 gene.

Mat is in a unique position to understand the barrage of science that would become a part of their lives from that moment on. His current position at Pfizer has him doing work in a drug safety lab.

While Mat is modest about his education and profession, Jennifer speaks with pride about the extensive knowledge base Mat brings to the table.

“He’s a geneticist,” Jennifer says.

“Yeah, I got my Ph.D. in human genetics,” Mat amends with a grudging laugh. “It does make it a little easier because, whenever we’re reading the research papers, at least I have a little bit of basic knowledge. Retinal diseases aren’t anything I’ve ever studied, but at least I’m familiar enough with the jargon, the lingo, that we can kind of get through the papers and get something out of them. That certainly has helped some.”

“It has,” Jennifer says, “a lot!”

Mat’s background in genetics has also proven beneficial in reaching out to researchers who specialize in retinal diseases. When the successful gene therapy for a different form of LCA was developed at the University of Pennsylvania, he was able, through his connections there, to speak with the researcher who discovered the cure.

“He knows what to ask,” Jennifer says. “He knows exactly what they need to hear and how to talk to the researchers because that’s what he does for a living. He’s been invaluable. It’s true! He undersells himself.”

With all Mat’s knowledge comes frustration. “It does seem clear to me that there’s a path forward, but I’m limited by what I can and can’t do within the confines of my job at Pfizer. I know what can be done and I can actually go into the lab and eventually do it, it’s just that it’s not within the realm of what the job allows for me to do at this time. So, instead, it’s about trying to connect with people who ARE doing this right now, and it IS part of their job, and trying to find out how we can enable them to do the work,” Mat says.

Knowing the exact form of their daughter’s disease gives the Pletchers hope. In the middle of all the unknowns is an incontrovertible, scientific fact upon which they can frame their course of action. “We were relieved [when they found out the diagnosis],” Jennifer says. “We finally slept. Now we know what to do.”

To that end, Jennifer—who is a registered nurse at Had-dam Elementary School in Higganum—and Mat have added another job to their resumes. They are fundraisers. After a life-changing LCA conference in Philadelphia in July 2010, the Pletchers joined forces with four other families whose children possess the mutated RDH12 gene. Together, they created the RDH12 Fund for Sight. They have since been joined by another family from Europe.

*See R. Kim Bingham and  
Leeland J. Cole-Chu of  
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In a unified voice on their foundation's Web site, the families explain the guiding principle born at the conference: "It was at this time we decided we were not going to patiently wait in line for the research to finally turn its attention to our children's disease. We were going to try to make sure that a cure would come before their sight left."

The families are encouraged by the development of a successful gene therapy for the RPE65 gene mutation that affects roughly 10 percent of the LCA population. The therapy does not just stop the retinal degeneration; it reverses it.

"There is a route out there available to cure kids who have this kind of disease," Mat says. "In all 3000 of the LCA cases, it is just going to require a specific gene therapy for each of the genetic versions."

The hopes of the founding families of the RDH12 Fund for Sight have been further buoyed by the fact that they've secured a commitment from Dr. Jean Bennett of the University of Pennsylvania to carry out research on the RDH12 gene. This is the same researcher who led the development of the RPE65 gene therapy.

The closeness of the cure emboldens the Pletchers. "It's there. It's just a matter of getting enough money into the hands of the researchers doing the work to make that happen for them," Mat says.

The RDH12 Fund for Sight started with a goal of \$70,000, the amount needed to cover the first year of research in Dr. Bennett's lab. Local efforts have been organized under the banner "Finley's Fighters," with support coming from the Pletcher's hometown of Connellsville, Penn., and across southeastern Connecticut.

In Connellsville, the high school students rallied behind Finley as part of the annual Homecoming fundraiser. Finley's visits to the school put a face—an elfin one with bright blue eyes—on their chosen cause. The students brought in twice the amount they'd ever raised.

The RDH12 Fund for Sight has just presented its first check to Dr. Bennett. The Pletchers have every confidence in her abilities. "The cure will be sitting in a test tube by the end of the year," Mat says. But the mission is far from over.

The cost of curing Finley—and the 85 children in the United States like her—grows with each passing year. The \$70,000 start-up cost is actually the least expensive outlay of the entire project, which is expected to take approximately five years. Several phases of animal testing and a clinical trial will need to be financed before

Finley's Fighters can consider their battle won.

Mat and Jennifer have seen it happen. "One couple we met has a child with the genetic form of LCA that they do know the gene therapy for," Mat says. "They signed him up for the next round of clinical trials. It was amazing to think that, in a year's time, it could all be over for them. Their kid would be cured. From that point on, the rest of their lives would be like it never happened."

Without a cure, Finley is likely to go completely blind in her late teens or early twenties. Her vision has gradually deteriorated from 20/70 to 20/100 (the threshold for legal blindness) over the past year. This slow progression allows Finley to adjust to the change in such a way that the extent of the deficit is not readily apparent to those around her.

Jennifer knows that Finley's firecracker personality will take her far. "Based on what the doctors say, she shouldn't be able to see very much, yet she just flies around and jumps around non-stop. She's covered in black and blue marks because she does run into things constantly, but at the same time you would think that she should be much more cautious," says Jennifer.

Mat agrees. Finley's attitude, as he describes it, is gung-ho. "If something is sticking, she just keeps pushing on it till it either goes or breaks."

"No one is ever going to tell her 'you can't do it,'" Jennifer says. "She's going to do it anyway, whether it's safe or not. Hopefully when she gets a little bit smarter and a little older, she'll use that to guide her. She'll say 'I can do this even though my sight's not very good.'"

With Finley in fighting form, the Pletchers continue to rally the troops behind her. Mat and Jennifer can often be found fielding calls from people who want to help Finley directly with donations of items she may need as a result of her condi-



*continued on page 9*

tion. But the Pletchers' message is always the same. "As much as we appreciate people wanting to do things for Finley directly and to get her things, that's not what Finley needs," Mat says.

"We're a very blessed family with very good insurance," Jennifer explains.

What Finley most desperately needs is the one thing her parents can't provide: a cure.

*More information can be found at [www.rdh12.org](http://www.rdh12.org) and [finleyfighters.org](http://finleyfighters.org). You can also follow the Pletcher's journey at [www.pletcher5journey.blogspot.com](http://www.pletcher5journey.blogspot.com). The RDH12 Fund for Sight is a component fund of the Spartanburg County Foundation. The Spartanburg County Foundation is a registered 501(3)(c) charitable foundation, so all donations to the RDH12 Fund for Sight are tax deductible.*

*The MOMS Club of Salem will be sponsoring a pancake breakfast on Saturday, May 7 to benefit Finley's Fighters and the RDH12 Fund for Sight. It will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Congregational Church of Salem's Christian Education Building. Tickets are \$10 per person or \$25 per family.*

*[finleyfighters.org](http://finleyfighters.org)*

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## From the Land Of Owls, Old Trees and People

*By David Bingham*

**T**he barred owl is one of those forest birds we hear far more often than we see. The call, "Who cooks for you, who cooks for you-all" echoes through the valley on cold winter nights, especially under the full moon.



The one that is pictured here swooped over my car as I drove into the yard and landed on the bluebird box. The late afternoon sun cast a golden glow around the bird. Amazingly, it stayed put when I slowly and quietly exited the car and pretended not to look at it as I went into the house for my camera.

As I looked, it was clearly trying to figure out whether or not to fly, weaving back and forth warily. I got the camera, sneaked back out, and zoomed in on the golden owl with the viewfinder, filling the framed image as much as I could, trying to hold it steady, holding my breath. Click, click, click. I went back into the house, quietly called Annie B. and made sure she got a view, too.

What a handsome creature! Although they often will fly at dusk, they are most active while we are asleep, able to see in the dimmest light. Even without any light, they can pounce on a mouse by locating distance and height with their offset ears, one higher than the other.

Barred owls nest in our deep forests in Salem. They like big old trees with large nest cavities for raising their young. While building the trails on Darling Preserve a pair was often heard during the spring nesting season in a part of the forest where the biggest trees grow.

This was a forest destined for subdivision. Were it not for the Salem Land Trust, with the help of the town of Salem and the State of Connecticut, among other partners in the project, dozens of houses might have been built. The owls would likely have moved out, along with other interior forest birds like the thrushes and cerulean warblers that also nest here. These creatures are incompatible with small blocks of forest that are broken

up by lawns and driveways, changing the habitat characteristics.

Recently, an adjacent forested parcel, off of Gungy Road, has also been protected. This land has been in our family for over a hundred years, and is held in a family corporate structure that almost disintegrated last year.

Development was prevented by a land protection agreement with The Nature Conservancy that will allow the family to maintain ownership, but prohibit any buildings or roads. Selective forestry is permitted if done in a sustainable manner.

The sale of our development rights allowed some family members to buy out those members who would have sold off the land. As part of the deal with The Nature Conservancy, there will be public access from Gungy Road across the Salem Valley Corporation's Gungy parcel to link Hartman Park with Darling Road Preserve.

While scouting the trail connection between the various parcels, a monster tree was discovered in a remote part of Darling Preserve. It is a white oak, 17'4" around and about 90' tall. It may be the largest one in New London County, and may be from 600-800 years old. We are awaiting measurements by the CT Big Tree Committee to check that out.

Saving this land means that future generations will be able to have cleaner air and water, purified by the forest, a greater diversity of wildlife, and healthy recreation. But more than that this is a place where the wonders of nature, like this grand old tree and our remarkable barred owls can be made available for people from all walks of life, all ethnic and racial backgrounds, all ages, to experience in the wild.

It is truly priceless. And its value from a scientific and natural resource point of view is multiplied with every additional acre of land that is protected nearby. Large forest blocks have been disappearing from our state, chopped apart into smaller fragments of far less eco-

logical value as subdivisions sprout one building lot at a time.

Salem is graced with some remarkable areas of large intact forests. But unfortunately most of this land is still unprotected, at risk of development that weakens the biological health of the Darling Road Preserve and its trees and owls. A pair of here and there is insufficient for long term survival of the owls. Pollination of trees is healthier when there are more sources of pollen to fight new diseases and ancient ones.

Salem is blessed with abundant natural wonders. But these wonders are at risk. Our leaders have an opportunity to keep Salem an oasis of rich diversity, if they so choose. If only they are wise enough to see the value of our unbroken forests, not just for this generation of people, owls and white oaks, but also for those to come.




*From left to right: David Bingham Jr.; his wife, Lynn Mickelburgh; Cameron Cunningham; and Josh and Brianna Bingham.*

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## From the Desk of the Town Clerk

By Pat Crisanti

The following is the second installment of an article in the *New York Times*, dated December 22, 1895, describing life in Salem 115 years ago...

The old Seminary of Music Vale is now going to decay, and the legends of the Vale are nearly forgotten. The seminary stands on a knoll in the centre of a beautiful valley. An unkempt hedge of honey locust borders what was once a well-kept lawn, and the great white building is nearly hidden by the foliage of untrimmed trees and shrubbery. It is a long, two-story structure, with green blinds, an L in the rear, and is surrounded by verandas at each floor. There's a carriage porch in the centre, over which rise, a tower and flagpole, topped by a golden harp, which is seen from afar, overtopping the foliage of the verdure-clad valley.

The place looks deserted, and its only aspect is accentuated by the noisy twittering of the swallows that flit about its eaves and chimneys. It was John Whittlesey, a Methodist preacher, who first of his family, settled here early in the century, having come from Saybrook, where they had located in Colonial days. His father was one of those who fell in the historic massacre of Groton Heights. Oramel Whittlesey, his son, was the founder of Music Vale Seminary. He and two brothers, when young men, started in as manufacturers of pianos, and the Whittlesey piano, with its two pedestal legs, sold in New York before the forties, was made here in Salem, in a small building on the farm.

Oramel was a musician, and his fame as such spread through the country. He was besieged by requests from parents that he take a daughter as a pupil. Eventually consenting to this, he soon had his house filled with pupils from near and far, and one addition to his house followed another to meet the growing demands. The German method of instruction was followed, a corps of



"Music Vale Seminary"  
painting hanging in the Salem Library

competent assistants was engaged in the work and the institution was authorized to confer degrees. Indeed, it was the only normal academy of music at that time in the United States, and it maintained its unique position for many years. The discipline was rigid, yet under the benevolent and genial direction of its Principal, the place seemed like the home of a big, happy family.

The Professor was a good host and a great story teller. With his own wide circle of friends and those of the young women he had much entertaining to do, and he was in his element at such times. Foreign musicians visiting New York generally found their way out there, and New York and Boston musical folks were frequent guests, while the leading men of Connecticut, including the Governor and State Officials, lawyers, politicians, and many prominent in other walks of life were often entertained. When visitors were expected, a flag was flaunted to the breeze, with a great streamer that would do service as the homeward-bound pennant of a man-of-war. The dinner on these occasions was a banquet, and in the evening there was a concert, and perhaps theatricals, in the concert hall, which was fitted up with a small stage at considerable expense, under the direction of the best scenic artists in New York. Col. Whittlesey (he had won the title in the early militia days) was popular among the farmers, and he found time to represent them in each branch of the Legislature and to be their Judge of Probate.

Shortly after the war the old seminary building was burned down, but it was replaced by a new one, erected on a scale which made some of the good folk open their eyes. The professor, however, was growing old; the war had robbed Music Vale of its Southern clientage, and music conservatories were beginning to flourish in the cities; so the school was finally closed, in the seventies.



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Prof. Whittlesey died in 1876. Soon afterward the Music Vale property passed out of the hands of the family; but one of the daughters, not aged, still retains a small place near by, where she has gathered into a house, somewhat over 160 years old, which she calls the “Little Red Cot-

tage,” more stuff, old and interesting, than can be found outside the museum of a New England historical society.

*Music Vale Seminary*



### Living in Salem Top Ten Treasures

*By Sue Weber*

1. *Golumpki from Two Brothers Restaurant. They are to die for.*
2. *This beautiful rural setting.*
3. *Gifts at the Gilded Edge.*
4. *Horse pond . . . frozen or thawed.*
5. *General Tso from Sweet Rice Restaurant.*
6. *All Rec League volunteer coaches, especially boys' baseball and girls' soccer, since that's what our kids play. These volunteers are way beyond epic!*
7. *Really friendly folks at our library.*
8. *Green Mountain Coffee K-cups at Babe's Deli – such a great deal!*

9. *Chocolate ice cream with hot fudge/no whipped cream thank you very much from Salem Valley Farms Ice Cream Co.*

10. *Taking a sanity break by hanging out in the gorgeous gardens at The Herb Farm.*

**Publisher's note:** We are starting a new feature to recognize the positive aspects of living in Salem. What's on your list? We encourage you to submit your list for publication in a future issue. Please submit your Top Ten Treasures to Elizabeth Regan at [ecregan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ecregan@sbcglobal.net) or 717 Old Colchester Road, Salem CT 06420.

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## Dining Around Salem

### Two Brothers Pizza Restaurant & Pub

By Pat Aldrich

For my First review I wanted to choose something local. Well, it doesn't get more local than Two Brothers Pizza Restaurant & Pub at the Salem Four Corners. The thing I like about Two Brothers is, well, first it's AT the Four Corners, and secondly, you always see someone you know there. It is a great place to bring the family, order take out, or go out a little later for a drink and appetizers or desserts with the girls (or guys, I suppose).

One night not too long ago, my kids and I went out for an early dinner at Two Brothers. One of them had to be at Scouts at 5 p.m., and the other at Theater Club at 5:30. Luckily, one of the Scout dads we know came in to pick up pizza for the Scout meeting (I had totally forgotten they were having pizza), and he took my son to the meeting. Where else but Salem? Anyway, my daughter and I were able to relax and have dinner. It wasn't super busy—it was like 4:45—but we did see another family we knew. My daughter ordered a Chicken Caesar Salad (\$9.50) and I ordered the On Portabella Road (\$8.50), my usual. I looked over all the great choices, but stuck with my usual because, well, it is just so darn good!

My daughter's salad was crisp and fresh, and the chicken was delish. My sandwich, which consisted of grilled and marinated portabella mushrooms, Swiss cheese, roasted peppers, lettuce, tomato, and an olive mushroom spread

on a ciabatta roll, was awesome! Two Brothers has a nice relaxing atmosphere, and the addition of the pub invites adults to sit and visit awhile, without taking away from the family atmosphere. It is a perfect fit for a town like Salem.

*If you haven't been to Two Brothers, go.  
If you have, go again!*

**Cuisine:** Pizza, salad, Italian dinners, seafood, grinders, sandwiches and daily specials.

**Atmosphere:** Casual & comfortable

**Service:** Friendly

**Hours:** Monday-Saturday 10:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

**Closed** Sundays & holidays

**Prices:** Entrees & Pizzas \$4.50-\$19.50

**Other:** Kids menu, takeout available



## Planning Ahead: Salem Senior Cottages

By Anne Rowthorn

Imagine this headline:  
**"Salem Cottages Win  
 Top Environmental Awards!"**

It hasn't happened yet, but it could if Salem residents plan ahead. Think about it. Many families have lived in Salem and raised their children here for most of their lives. Some of us serve, or have served, on town commissions, committees, and boards; we are fire fighters; we have seen our children graduate from the Salem School; we have made friends and been Friends of the Library; we participate in the Apple Festival; we enjoy hiking the trails in the woodlands surrounding us. We are Salem people! When we become too old to care for our family-sized homes our only alternative currently is to move in with children or relocate to retirement communities elsewhere, leaving Sa-

lem, the community we love and where we feel at home.

I'd like a better future, and if we act now while we have strength and energy, we can exercise our choice in living where we want (here in Salem) and with whom we want (among townspeople who have been our friends and neighbors), and in the manner we choose (housing design that takes into account our tastes and needs), and, of course, keeping our pets. If we fail to make choices for ourselves when we are able to, inevitably choices will be made for us and they may not be to our liking.

What I have in mind is housing that would be developed from the "grass-roots" by future residents who would brainstorm and plan exactly what they want. It would not be imposed by outside builders or speculators. From my perspective, these "cottages"—not apartments—would be ecologically-designed and modestly-priced with one or two bedrooms that would take advantage of high performance building materials: passive and active solar concepts for heating and cooling such as low-E windows,



low-flow plumbing, Energy Star appliances, tight construction, insulation, ceiling fans, etc. I'd like to see high-end construction—wood and tile floors, granite countertops, fireplaces, decks or porches. I envision cottages that would be attractive but not luxurious; no expensive frills such as a golf course or a swimming pool. Nor would they include a health care/nursing home facility. The cottages would not be “affordable” in the public housing sense of the word because most of us probably have a little too much income to qualify for public housing funds. They would add value to the town without costing it anything since residents would not have school-age children utilizing the schools. I'd hope the cottages would be an attractive asset to the town and perhaps a model for green design and for community members caring for and helping each other.

Salem has enough meeting places so the expense of a community lodge probably wouldn't be needed; however, we could have a community garden and a community orchard and common beds of strawberries, raspberries, blueberries and herbs.

Some may say this is not a new idea; that providing senior housing in Salem can't be done. But I don't think we should be condemned to the negativity of the past. This is a new age; it is up to our generation to do what we see as right for the town and for ourselves. This proposal for senior housing cottages fits in with the findings of the Vision Committee which polled Salem's residents and recently reported their results. The report stated the goal that “housing in Salem be attractive and consistent with the town's rural character and quality of life,” and furthermore, that we “accommodate our unmet housing needs by permitting a variety of housing types and configurations that encourage Salem's residents, including senior citizens and young adults, to remain in the community.”

Next steps in developing this project include ascertaining interest in the town through distributing this article, organizing a brainstorming meeting, forming a steering committee and taking it from there. Later, if there is sufficient interest, further actions will involve looking for models of the type of housing we envision, defining specifics of what we'd want, finding an architect who would enjoy the challenge, and identifying a builder who would work with residents but take responsibility for property acquisition, permissions and construction.

Some of those interested in exploring this proposal might not be of retirement age; others who are retired might still want to stay in their family homes. By the time the hurdles to building Salem Senior Cottages are overcome, we all might be ready to move in!

If you are interested, please contact Anne Rowthorn at [annerowthorn@yahoo.com](mailto:annerowthorn@yahoo.com).

## *Salem Library Knitters* **Look for a New Name**

*By Jackie Hemond, Salem Free Public Library*

The Salem Library Knitters was founded in 2008 by Helen Holodniak. The group is dedicated to the art of knitting and conversation, a cuppa and cookies. This convivial group meets Thursday mornings at the Salem Library from 10 a.m. to noon at the same time coffee or tea and cookies are served to library patrons. The group consists of about 15 members and includes young and old. The youngest members are 3, 8 and 9 years old, while the rest of the group ranges in age up to the eighties. The knitters welcome new members of all ages and genders.

The Salem Library Knitters are also enthusiastic patrons of the Salem Library. For the Library's 5th Anniversary Celebration in 2009, the knitters made knitted goods to benefit the library through the auspices of the Friends of the Salem Library. In October 2010 the group staged a Knit-in to encourage people to join the group and make knitted goods to benefit the library once again. They raised \$475!

Now the Salem Library Knitters are looking for a new name. The person who coins a name which the group accepts will receive honorary membership into the knitting group and a Salem Library mug just right for a cuppa. To join the group, just drop in any Thursday morning at the Salem Library. If you have a name for the group, please call the Salem Library at 860-859-1130.



*Front row, left to right: Charlotte Lavoie, Keegan Deer, Susan Kaika, Rilyn Deer, and Ethan Deer*

*Back row, left to right: Jane Grilley, Nancy Giambra, Judy Rabe, Jessie Hoadley, Helen Holodniak, Lois Wordell, and Sharon Sanders*

# Things to Do . . . AROUND TOWN

Find out what's happening in Salem this spring

## *The Congregational Church of Salem*

*Submitted by the Rev. Tim Dubeau*

Winter worship schedule - 8:30 & 11:00 a.m., Sundays (childcare is available at the 11:00 A.M. service for children grades 3 and under.)

### **Financial Peace University**

Come to the Christian Education building for this 13 week DVD based workshop by Dave Ramsey for training in well founded Christian money management principles. Mr. Ramsey is the author of the New York Times best seller "Total Money Makeover." Go to [www.DaveRamsey.com/fpu/home](http://www.DaveRamsey.com/fpu/home) to register for the class or call Pastor Tim Dubeau at 860-859-1925. Meals are served at 6:00 p.m.

**DVD/discussion sessions led by Woodland Scott:** Friday nights 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the CE building. \$99, meals included, no child care. Fridays: March 25; April 1, 8, 15, 29; May 6, 13, 20, 27; and June 3, 10, 17.

### **Lenten Series:**

Beginning Sunday, March 6 through Palm Sunday, Pastor Tim will preach a series on the Body of Christ entitled Christ's Body – Our Body.

**Palm Sunday**, April 17; **Good Friday**, April 22: service of worship at 7:00 p.m.; **Easter Sunday**, April 24: Sunrise service followed by Easter breakfast in Christian Education building and traditional service at 10:00 a.m.

**Memorial Day** – pre-parade breakfast in Christian Education building – 7:30 – 9:00 a.m. Christian Community Center Fundraiser. Watch the paper or check our Web site for details.

**Vacation Bible School** – PandaMania – Where God is Wild about You!: June 27 – 30 (tentative schedule dependent on Salem School calendar).

For more information, call 860-859-1925 and speak with Shirley or check out our Web site.

### **Christian Community Center Progress**

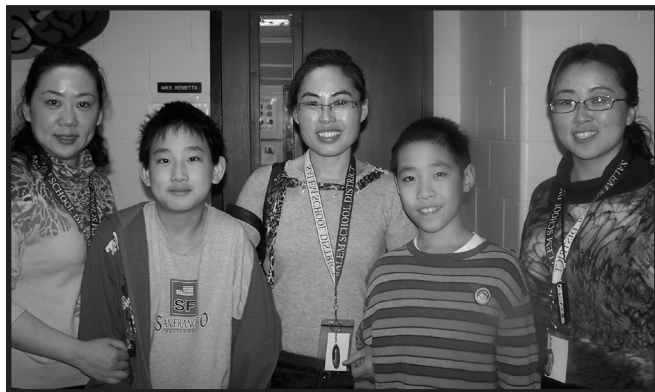
Landscaping around the front of the building will continue in the spring with the placement of multiple retaining walls, walkways and planter areas.

As of this writing (2/1/2011), our Trustees have signed a contract for the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system. Installation should begin in March. We're currently issuing bid packages for plumbing, and hope to develop packages for electrical, paving, and exterior concrete work for issuance by April. We would like to utilize local contractors if possible to do the work. If you are interested in bidding or can recommend a good contractor, please contact Pastor Tim at 860-859-1925.

In the meantime, we will use volunteers to build interior partitions, place the proper underlayment for our tile and wood floors and install insulation and sheetrock. If you would like to be included on our volunteer list, please contact Pastor Tim at 860-859-1925. You will be notified of scheduled work dates and the type of work being done.

We thank all those contributors who have remained faithful to their financial commitments and look forward to a very busy year.

Stay tuned for more progress reports! As always, we're excited to think how this building will be used for many different community related events and programs. It will also be available to rent for private functions, including receptions, showers, birthday parties and other family events requiring a large, comfortable space. We look forward to notifying all when the Certificate of Occupancy has been issued.



*Salem School welcomed three educators from a sister school in the Shandong Province of China for a ten-day visit in January. Salem School students Kenny Liang and Roy Xing served as interpreters during the visit.*

*From left to right: Wenyu Wang, Salem School fifth grader Roy Xing, Jianhua Xu, Salem School sixth grader Kenny Liang, and Yili Xing.*

## Lions Tales

*Submitted by Lion George Ziegler*

The Holiday Season has passed. Snow has been piled high; and now we look forward to a nice, warm spring. The Salem Lions have been busy throughout the past season helping other groups carry out a Secret Santa program and with our own fundraisers of cutting, splitting, selling/donating fire wood and selling Super Bowl roses. We will be even more active during the coming months.

### Congratulations are in order:

To: **David Bingham** - presented with a **Lions Humanitarian Award** on January 8, 2011 by Lions District 23C for his longstanding efforts in land preservation.



*Center front, from left to right: Betty Gillaspie, Lion Gordon Gillaspie, Lion Bill Martin, Honorary Dr. David Bingham, Tiffany Cunningham, Linda Schroeder, Andy Schroeder, Olive Weiss, and Lion Arnold Weiss. Photo by Lion Elbert Burr.*

To: **Lion Jim Fogarty & Lion Jim Krodel** - presented with **Salem Unsung Heroes Award** on January 30, 2011 for their many hours of voluntary service to residents of Salem and its youth.

To: **Lion Eric Belt** - presented with a **Melvin Jones Fellowship** on February 27, 2011 by Lions Club International Foundation for dedicated humanitarian services.

**18th ANNUAL SALEM ROAD RACE** - Sponsored by Salem Lions Club on April 9, 2011. Races begin and end at Salem School.



- 1.0 mile Family Fun Run starts at 9 a.m., and 5K Run starts at 10 a.m.
- Many prizes will be given and there will be food for all runners.
- Free t-shirts to the first 100 registrants; a limited number of t-shirts will be available for sale.
- For additional information and registration forms, see [www.Salemctroadrace.org](http://www.Salemctroadrace.org).

This is a large undertaking for the Salem Lions. We need all the help we can get. Anyone interested in helping us can call Lion Bill Martin at 859-1881.

**ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT** - Hey Kids, start coloring your pictures and decorating your eggs. The Easter Egg Hunt will be held at Salem School on Saturday, April 16, 2011. Visit with the Easter Bunny, have your face painted, and bring your Easter Basket to collect candy. Prizes for best decorated eggs, colored pictures, and winners of Jelly Bean races.

**JOURNEY FOR SIGHT** - Lions District 23C annual Journey for Sight 5K walk-a-thon will be held at Pomfret Recreation Park in Pomfret on April 30, 2011. The Salem Lions are walking and accepting pledges. All pledges support Lions charities (½ retained by Salem Lions; ½ donated to District sponsored charities). All are welcome to accompany us on the walk; join us for free food and good fellowship with folks from all of eastern Connecticut.

**SALEM LIONS SCHOLARSHIPS** - Calling all graduating Salem senior class students. The Salem Lions will be awarding two scholarships again this year to two Salem senior class students who will be attending an accredited college. The winners and their parents will be honored at our June 23, 2011 dinner meeting. Application forms will be available in mid May at the guidance offices of your high schools.

**ANNUAL TAG SALE** - Mark your calendars. Our Lions Annual Tag Sale will be on Saturday, June 25, 2011 at the corner of Shingle Mill Road and Route 82. Something for everyone. All donations are appreciated. All proceeds fund our Salem Lions scholarships and local projects.



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April 9, 2011: Details at our Web site  
<http://www.salemctroadrace.org/>  
Sponsored by the Lion's Club of Salem, Ct



# SALEM ROAD RACE



## INLAND WETLANDS & CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Submitted by Diba Khan-Bureau

Did you know that snowfall and rainfall contribute to nonpoint source pollution? When snow melts or rain falls on impervious surfaces, all of the substances (including pet wastes, oil, antifreeze, salt, de-icing substances, fertilizers, pesticides, etc.) get flushed into our streams, rivers, lakes, and water bodies. Eventually it all ends up in the Long Island Sound! So please be careful of how much salt, sand and ice remover you use during the winter months. With spring and summer upon us, be thoughtful of how much fertilizer and pesticides you use on your lawn. And don't forget to pick up after your pets. Take into account that our waterways, streams, rivers, and our ground water are all interconnected and are essential to human life. The Environmental Protection Agency considers nonpoint source pollution to be the leading cause of water quality impairment.

### Connecticut has some very interesting water resources statistics:

- 450,000+ acres of wetlands
- Over 5800 linear miles of streams
- Our estuary, Long Island Sound, is the entire length of Connecticut!
- 200 reservoirs, with over 20,000 natural and manmade lakes and ponds can be found in our state.

We are fortunate to have abundant water resources in Connecticut but, with that said, we need to take special care of these resources for today and for future generations!



*"With all the snow we've had this winter, the birds that live near Carley Weber's house are really happy she harvested her sunflower seeds just for them. Those birds must be fat and happy! The evolution of Carley's giant sunflower was featured in the Dec. 2010 issue of Our Town – Salem."*

## Salem Community Garden

Submitted by Sue Weber

**WHO WANTS A GARDEN PLOT?** There are two garden plots available at the organic Salem Community Garden located next to the school parking lot. Each plot is about 10 x 10 feet in size. It costs \$20.00 to rent a plot for an entire season; cash or checks are accepted.

If you want to grow healthy organic food, enjoy friendship, get a little exercise and have fun, this may be just the opportunity you've been looking for! Check out the blog at [salemcommunitygarden.wordpress.com](http://salemcommunitygarden.wordpress.com) for more information. If you're interested, please contact Thean Yeoh at 860-823-0170 or e-mail him at [yeoh@yahoo.com](mailto:yeoh@yahoo.com).

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## SALEM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

By Jackie Hemond, Salem Free Public Library

*If You Haven't Joined the Friends of the Salem Library, You're Overdue!*

If you think that the Salem Library is an important part of the community, please become a member of the Friends of the Salem Library. Thanks to the Friends and Salem taxpayers, the library is able to spend approximately \$16,700 each year on books, audio books, magazines, and movies for the library's patrons to check out and enjoy. The library's operating budget, provided by the town, is approximately \$20,000. Sixty percent of this amount, or \$12,000, is used for the library's circulating materials. The other \$4,700 is provided by The Friends. The Friends gives an additional \$7,650 to the library to purchase museum passes and to sponsor summer reading, story hours, programs, the teen advisory group and staff training.

The Friends relies on two sources of income to provide money for the library. One source is the proceeds from their wonderful book sale in October which is manned by many, many friends and directed by Judy and Norm Rabe. The other source is dues paid by members of the Friends of the Salem Library.

The public library is often called "the people's university" because it is available to all, regardless of age, skill level, or ability to pay. People of all ages can pursue self-directed learning at public libraries or acquire knowledge for school assignments and consumer, financial or personal guidance. Popular movies, "beach reads," craft books, audio books, and now e-books are available at public libraries. Computers are available to people who can't afford one or have a "down" computer. Fax machines, printers and copiers are also available. Lastly, public libraries are becoming the central gathering place for socializing, community groups and organizations.

Every Thursday at the Salem Free Public Library, patrons come to chat while coffee and cookies are served. The library sponsors two adult book groups; offers at least six story times a month; has a teen advisory group and a knitting group; provides basic computer tutoring; features summer and winter reading programs; and presents almost 300 programs a year for all ages. The MOMS Club of Salem uses the library's space to lunch with their children, seniors play Wii every Tuesday, and another group teaches chess to children every Wednesday. The library is home to the Propbusters and the Salem Land Trust and has provided space for numerous other groups and organizations, such as Salem Community Gardens, a condominium association, census workers, tutors, the Republican Town Committee, an exercise group, and a Coast Guard safe boating instruction class. The library recently purchased an AWE computer designed to teach reading comprehension to young children. Fourteen computers are available to patrons to prepare documents and search the Internet.

A lot is happening at the Salem library. Come educate yourself at the library, explore the Internet, listen to a concert, find a good book, read the paper, meet friends and committee members, and enjoy cookies and coffee (the library is cheaper than Starbucks!). The Salem Free Public Library can provide a lot because of the generosity of the Salem taxpayers and Friends. But if you enjoy the library and are not a member of the Friends of Salem Library, then your membership is overdue! Please step up and join the Friends.

*Thank you, Friends.*

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## *Salem Green Cemetery Association*

*Submitted by the Rev. Tim Dubeau, Sexton*

The annual meeting of the Salem Green Cemetery Association is scheduled for April 19 at 2:00 p.m. in the Salem Town Hall.



At present, we have fewer members than our bylaws specify and are open to receiving new members. The responsibilities are primarily advisory, concerning matters of finance, maintenance and regulations. Meetings lasting roughly 2 hours occur every other month at the Salem Town Offices. New members are welcome to join the Association at any time. If interested in membership, please contact David Wordell, SGCA President, at 860-859-5336 or come to our annual meeting to learn more.

We've finished preparing a comprehensive list of those interred/inurned in the cemetery who served in our armed forces. The cemetery map shows a small flag symbol on those plots owned by or containing the remains of veterans.

As of this date (2/1/2011) and since the last issue of Our Town, there have been four inurnments/interments.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date Inurned/Interred</u>
Paula Anne Aiksnoras	IE32	Dec. 2010
Evelyn M. Brigman	IF19	Dec. 2010
Mary Civitello	IA22	Jan. 2011
Louise Mary Lord	IB21	Feb. 2011

As you can imagine, the plowing of the cemetery has been particularly challenging this winter. Please be patient with us as we try to provide adequate space for vehicles. Any winter burials require that we move a lot of snow to make room for tracks, heavy equipment and soil. If your plot(s) has (have) been impacted in any way, the Salem Green Cemetery Association will make all the necessary corrections/repairs in the spring.

Contact the cemetery sexton, Rev. Tim Dubeau, at 860-859-1925 if interested in purchasing one or more plots.

## SALEM PRE-SCHOOL LOTTERY

*Submitted by Cathy Wayne*

The Salem pre-school lottery for the 2011-2012 school year will be held on May 31, 2011. The pre-school program at Salem School is designed to provide learning activities for eligible special education students, ages three and four, with a balanced number of their regular education peers. Special education students are identified through the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) process. Regular education students are chosen by lottery from those whose parents have expressed an interest in having their child placed on the lottery list for the program. Regular education students must be three years old by September 1, 2011, and cannot be eligible for kindergarten; that is, they cannot have reached the age of five on or before January 1, 2012.

The pre-school program is tentatively planned for Monday through Friday from 8:40 to 11:35 a.m. Tuition and transportation for regular education children will be the responsibility of the parent. If you are interested in more information or would like your child placed in the lottery pool, please call Salem School at 860-859-3988 by May 20, 2011.



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## SALEM TOWN PLANNER

*Submitted by Mary Ann Chinatti*

### Revised FEMA maps are soon to be effective.

Federally designated flood zones are being revised and property owners are advised to find out whether the changes will affect their property.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has been working on revision and updating of the flood maps for New London County. The flood maps, named FIRM (Flood Insurance Rate Map), have been revised for the first time in 20-30 years (depending on location within the county) to a digital format, which uses more detailed topography with tighter contours. Because of the better detail, the flood zone delineations, in some cases, have shifted a bit. Properties not shown to be in a flood zone on the old maps may now be included in a flood zone on the new maps; the reverse may also be true. The maps, and the associated revised federal, and new state, regulations, will become effective July 18, 2011.

The draft maps are available for viewing at the Town Hall. Anyone who is concerned that their property may be located in a flood zone may come into the Town Hall to check the revised maps, which are located in Conference Room 1, across from the First Selectman's office. It should be noted that town staff are not authorized to make a final determination as to whether a property is or is not within a flood zone. If you are in doubt after looking at the new flood maps you may need to consult a soil scientist, surveyor, or professional engineer.

In order for our community to remain eligible to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NIFP), Salem's Planning and Zoning Commission must adopt revised regulations for development in designated FEMA floodplains that meet or exceed the minimum federal standard and the new state requirements prior to the effective date of the FIRM. That work is now under way and is scheduled for completion before the July 18 deadline.



## Child Care Centers

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- Preschool
- Before & After School Programs



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D301492

## Salem Volunteer Fire Company & Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Dept.

*Submitted by Chief Gene Maiorano*

The Salem Volunteer Fire Company is proud to announce our latest addition – a 2010 Polaris 6X6 all-terrain vehicle (Utility) and Car Mate trailer to transport the utility.

The Utility will serve several purposes. Because of its rugged design, it will be used for off road fires and rescues. We also purchased a special insert for the Polaris that holds 75 gallons of water to help firefighters during woods and vegetation fires. There is also an area to hold a stretcher so victims can be transported out of difficult areas by Emergency Medical Technicians to an awaiting ambulance.

This unit with trailer will also respond to mutual aid towns with Salem's RIT (rapid intervention team) members.

The Utility will be equipped with the necessary items for these special fire fighters who have trained for interior rescue of down fire fighters.

This vehicle was purchased with your contributions and our fund raising efforts throughout the past several years. So we thank you! The SVFC did not use tax dollars toward this purchase.

This purchase will serve the people of Salem and mutual aid towns proudly in the future.

During the month of February, the Salem Volunteer Fire Company and the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Department trained their fire fighters at the old Bad Boys Toys buildings at the Salem Four Corners.

The State of Connecticut recently purchased this property for the pending project for the improvements to Route 85 and the four corners. Through the efforts of First Selectmen Kevin Lyden and Chief Gene Maiorano, SVFC, the town was able to reach an agreement with the DOT for training purposes for the month of February, prior to the demolition of the buildings.

Residents saw fire apparatus, along with EMT's, RIT (Rapid Intervention Team) members, and fire fighters from both companies in the evenings and on the weekends. This was a great opportunity to train our members using proper fire-fighting techniques and safety procedures.



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# Personal Ad Section



Monday, May 16, 2011  
Happy 11th birthday, Carley,  
our equestrienne extraordinaire!  
Love, Mom and Dad,  
Andrei, Max & Bunkki



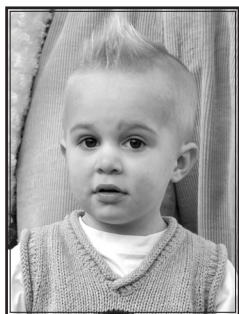
Happy 12th Birthday Sasha!  
4/15/2011

We love you. xo Mom, Dad, Brothers & Pets



Happy 5th Birthday Luke!  
3/07/2011

We love you. xo Mom, Dad, Sister & Brother



Thursday, April 21, 2011  
Happy third birthday to Topher,  
our little Lightning McQueen:  
Going fast and turning left  
since 2008!

Here's to another winning season.

Love, Mom, Dad, Tolby, Nana,  
Poppy, Grandmamie and Grandpa

## OUR TOWN – SALEM 2011

Our Town Salem (OTS) is a magazine published quarterly to enhance the lives of Salem residents through articles that inform, encourage and celebrate the people, activities, businesses and organizations in town. OTS is produced entirely by volunteers and is distributed free of charge inside the Lyme Times, thanks to the businesses, organizations and individuals who place their ads! OTS producers feel strongly that:

***Our town is nothing without its people!***

Salem people are from all walks of life; we work, play, shop, volunteer, help each other out, and use our skills and talents in myriads of ways! We like to know about each other and about what's happening in our town!

At its best, OTS features the people of Salem and that will happen with your participation:

Send us a photo and caption, or write a story, or give us leads on stories one of our volunteers could write! Contact Elizabeth Regan at [ecregan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ecregan@sbcglobal.net) or 860-859-2621.

**New in 2011:** Take out a personal ad to recognize birthdays, anniversaries, graduations and other achievements! Contact Kerri Salan at [fivesalan@yahoo.com](mailto:fivesalan@yahoo.com). Give us leads of businesses who would like to be featured in and/or advertise in OTS. Contact Sue Weber at [msweber1@aol.com](mailto:msweber1@aol.com) or 860-204-9020.

**The next deadline is April 15 for the June issue.**

Please email your articles, ads, or news items to [ecregan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ecregan@sbcglobal.net). You may also deliver your submission to the Salem Town Office building in an envelope addressed to Our Town – Salem, or you can mail it to 270 Hartford Road, Salem, CT 06420, Attention: Our Town – Salem.





***Liz Householder, Realtor***

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**4TH VISIT**

**FREE Double Meat!**

Buy any Footlong sub and get double meat free.

**5TH VISIT**

**FREE Chips & Drink!**

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**6TH VISIT**

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